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President-elect of the AMA discussed personal views on the smok ng and health question in a radio interview.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Washington, D.C.
July 22, 1963

Doctor Hopeful for Cancer Cure

BOSTON, July 21 (AP)—The new president-elect of the American Medical Association says he is "very optimistic" about progress now being made toward the cure of cancer.

In an interview broadcast tonight over Boston radio station WBZ, Dr. Norman Welsh of Boston was asked about the prospects for cure of cancer in the forseeable future.

"I'm very optimistic about it," he said. "...The study of genetics at the present time is perfectly fantastic . . . To me this is a tremendous advance in the understanding of cell structure, cell growth and the factors which change the speedup growth in cells, which is a factor in cancer."

Of the effect of smoking as a cause of lung cancer, Welsh said the AMA is waiting for completion of the Public Health Service survey of the problem.

He added that he personally suspects a relationship and that smoking by young people of teen age or less, before the epithelial cells of the lungs are fully matured, may be an especial factor.

"They are probably more easily injured than they would be in an adult who undertook smoking after he reached his adult life," Welsh added.

PLAIN DEALER
Cleveland, Ohio
July 22, 1963

Hope Is Seen for Cancer Cure

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In an interview broadcast last night over Boston radio station WBZ, Dr. Norman Welsh of Boston was asked: "How optimistic or pessimistic are you with regard to the cure of cancer within the foreseeable future?"

"I'm very optimistic about it," was the reply of the AMA president-elect. "The study of genetics at the present time is perfectly fantastic. To me this is a tremendous advance in the understanding of cell structure, cell growth and the factors which change the speedup growth in cells, which is a factor in cancer."

OF THE EFFECT of smoking as a cause of lung cancer, Dr. Welsh said the AMA was waiting for completion of the U.S. Public Health Service survey of the problem.

He added that he, personally, suspected a relationship and that smoking by young persons of teen age or less, before the epithelial cells of the lungs are fully matured, might be a special factor.

"They are probably more easily injured than they would be in an adult who undertook smoking after he reached his adult life," Dr. Welsh added.

He said the AMA had taken a stand on rights of Negroes to medical education and training in medical schools and serving in hospitals.

"They have urged that there be no discrimination in local medical societies, hospitals and medical schools as far as an individual's race or color is concerned," Dr. Welsh said.

He predicted that the AMA would continue to oppose medical care under Social Security.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/tlyk0000